

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 DOTE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14

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P R 120900Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1263

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

US LIAISON OFFICE PEKING 003

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 135

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRN XZ UR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: USSR REFUSES TO DISCUSS WITH SCANDINAVIANS
QUESTION OF SAS OVERFLIGHTS TO CHINA

1. MFA CONFIRMS THAT USSR INFORMED SWEDISH EMBASSY MOSCOW BY NOTE THURSDAY THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING QUESTION OF SAS RIGHTS TO OVERFLY SOVIET TERRITORY ENROUTE TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC).

TURNDOWN CAME IN ANSWER TO NOTE FROM SWEDISH EMBASSY MOSCOW, WHICH HAD REQUESTED SUCH TALKS IN BEHALF OF DENMARK AND NORWAY AND SWEDEN. SOVIET SHOCK-MESSAGE STALLS IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE THREE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND PRC SIGNED LAST YEAR. AGREEMENT ASSUMES SAS OVERFLIGHT OF USSR. ALTHOUGH MORE SOUTHERLY, AND LONGER, ROUTE TO PRC CAN POSSIBLY BE WORKED OUT, IT WOULD ENTAIL RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC.

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2. SOVIET NOTE ALSO TURNED DOWN SCANDINAVIAN REQUEST TO RAISE

FROM ONE TO TWO THE NUMBER OF SAS FLIGHTS A WEEK OVER SIBERIAN ROUTE TO JAPAN, SAYING THAT IT WAS "PREMATURE" TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER.

3. FINALLY, SOVIET NOTE IGNORED SWEDISH REQUEST ON BEHALF OF SAS FOR FULL TRAFFIC RIGHTS IN MOSCOW ON ITS SIBERIAN ROUTE TO JAPAN. AT PRESENT, SAS HAS ONLY TECHNICAL LANDINGS RIGHTS IN MOSCOW AND IS UNABLE TO TAKE ON OR DISCHARGE PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

4. COMMENT. CIVIL AIR EXPERT IN MFA SAID GOS DOES NOT KNOW WHAT LIES BEHIND LACONIC USSR REFUSAL EVEN TO TALK ABOUT OVER FLIGHT RIGHTS ON ROUTE TO PEKING. MFA IS CURRENTLY PUZZLING OVER QUESTION WHETHER SOVIET TECHNICAL INADEQUACIES, OBVIOUS PRC/USSR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, OR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS MOTIVATED USSR. SWEDISH MFA DOES NOT PRECLUDE POSSIBLE SOVIET PIQUE AT NOT HAVING BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT SCANDINAVIAN-PRC AIR AGREEMENT. SCANS INFORMED USSR WHEN THEY WERE ABOUT TO INITIAL AGREEMENT BUT DID NOT CONSULT. USSR, HOWEVER, MADE NO COMMENT AT THAT TIME. MFA THINKS COMMERCIAL REASONS COULD INDEED HAVE PLAYED A PART. USSR, WHICH HAS AIR RIGHTS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND PEKING, MIGHT WANT TO KEEP DOWN COMPETITION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES ALONG THIS ROUTE.

5. MFA CONTACT CONFIDENTIALLY REPEAT CONFIDENTIALLY ADDED THAT REFUSAL TO PERMIT SAS TO INCREASE SIBERIAN OVER-FLIGHTS ENROUTE TO JAPAN FROM ONE TO TWO A WEEK FOLLOWS FROM JAPAN'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT USSR TO INCREASE ITS FREQUENCIES TO JAPAN. USSR DOES NOT WANT TO ASSIST OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO WHAT IT IS NOT ABLE TO DO ITSELF.

6. MFA OFFICIAL SAID GOS IS TRYING TO DECIDE HOW FIRM SOVIET REFUSALS ARE AND WHAT TO DO NEXT. GOS, WHICH ACTS AS COORDINATOR ON SOVIET MATTERS FOR ITS SCANDINAVIAN PARTNERS, HAS NOT YET HAD CHANCE TO TALK IN DETAIL TO DENMARK AND NORWAY. PROBLEM WILL BE DISCUSSED IN MEETING OF SCANDINAVIAN MFA REPRESENTATIVES IN OSLO JANUARY 15 AND 16.
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